






enabling the students and teachers of Danbury

STATE REPRESENTATIVE BOB GODFREY

Students' Health Care Needs

Many students in our schools have treatable health problems. Unfortunately these conditions require the use of needles or injector cartridges, called **EpiPens**, that have not been allowed in our school buildings or busses. I supported a bill that will now allow some independence for students, and parents of students, with these health concerns. The bill will:

-  allow approved school personnel to administer medication through EpiPens to students who require it,
-  allow students carrying EpiPens on school busses,
-  expand the Good Samaritan Law to volunteers of nonprofit organizations who are trained in using EpiPens and get parental consent for administering medication to children under 17,
-  allow students with diabetes to give themselves glucose tests in the classroom, and
-  enable school health professionals and counselors to discuss a student's potential need for special services with each other and their parents so that any educational and health problems can be addressed early on.



Cleaning Up Sick Schools

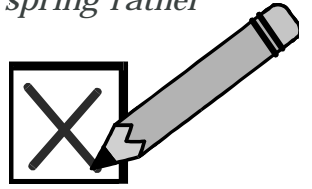


One of my priorities this session was to pass a comprehensive law to ensure our students and teachers were working in healthy buildings. I'm proud to say we've finally passed a bill that will begin correcting this epidemic across our state. The bill I introduced is designed to prevent poor air quality in schools and remedy existing problems. This law will:

- establish new construction guidelines that will prevent these problems from occurring
- require proper maintenance of all public school facilities,
- establish and implement indoor air quality programs in each school district,
- require evaluations of all new school construction projects every 5 years looking for problems that can be fixed before they get out of hand (these evaluations must be made available to the public),
- establish a funding mechanism for town's so they can apply for state grants if the Department of Public Health declares a "**certified school indoor air quality emergency**" where clean up costs will exceed \$100,000, and
- enable school districts or individual schools to form indoor air quality committees to keep on eye on potential problems and provide teachers and administrative staff a peer group to discuss these situations.

Student Testing

The federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) mandates a number of changes that acutely impact Connecticut's students. Currently, Connecticut students are tested in grades 4, 6, 8 and 10; now, 3rd, 5th, and 7th graders will be tested beginning in the 2005-06 school year. As of 2005, all state tests will be given in the spring rather than the fall. Any costs incurred from these additional tests must be covered by federal dollars.



Keeping Qualified Teachers in our Classrooms

Our teachers are among the hardest working and best in the nation. In order to keep them in our schools, the General Assembly raised the cap, and in some cases eliminated the cap, on what a re-employed teacher can earn after retirement. The bill also allows teachers to purchase additional credits in the Teacher's Retirement System.

Another bill will allow flexibility in the requirements for teacher certification. Teachers with specified elementary and special education certificates can now teach kindergarten and experience in the Birth-to-Three program will count toward certification. Qualified teachers who are awaiting state certification will be able to teach as long as the Board of Education in a municipality gets approval from the State Department of Education.

any questions or comments? contact Bob Godfrey at 800-842-1902



Dear Neighbors:

I'm very happy to be able to send to you this special report on the big steps your legislature took this year to maintain and advance public education.

It's been both my job and my pleasure to turn the issues you've raised into practical action. At the top of the list of your concerns has been the quality of public education here in Connecticut and especially in Danbury. I know this because you've been kind enough to tell me so, in person, through letters, phone calls, and e-mails, and particularly through my regular constituent surveys. Thank you for your help in determining our priorities. It is vitally important.

I'm especially happy that I was successful in pushing through my initiative on indoor air quality in our schools. Last year I became acquainted with the members of the "Canary Committee," a group whose members' lives have been hurt by toxic conditions in school buildings. They are students, their parents, and teachers who now suffer daily from chronic diseases traceable to 'sick schools' and in the worst cases have ended careers and severely limited the joys of living. In our area, we've experienced the problems directly; Brookfield had schools that were closed because of toxic asbestos, and the students were sent to the safety of Danbury High School.

Don't hesitate to contact me for more information on this subject, or any other state issue of concern to you. I can only do my job well if I have direction from you. So stay in touch!

Best regards,

Bob Godfrey

State Representative

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2003 Special Report
on
Education Quality